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50X1-HUM

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1934, 1935 and 1936  the years of hunger when there were not even enough potatoes to eat. The years 1938, 1939 and 1940 were good years because, in addition to potatoes, a slice of black bread for each person would appear occasionally to supplement the potatoes.

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50X1-HUM

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-2-

50X1-HUM

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18. There were guards and frequent searches of employees on leaving work and every day somebody was caught. But this did not stop pilfering.
19. Pilfering was a necessity, as nobody could live on the wages received. Food was rationed but in spite of that nothing could be bought in State stores as they were always almost empty. A worker was not able to buy food on the black market because he could not afford to pay black market prices. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (A two-pound loaf of black bread costs 300 rubles on the black market.)

50X1-HUM

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

3

50X1-HUM

20. The Soviet government fully realized that a worker was not able to support himself on the salary he received, and every worker was issued grain or flour in addition to his salary.
21. In the grain elevator workers received, in addition to salary, 300 grammes of black flour and their lunch. The lunch usually consisted of buckwheat groats or peassoup or vegetable soup. This was a minimum to keep workers alive. It was very well for a single worker, but a worker with a family could not survive without pilfering and pilfer they did.
22. [redacted] one occasion when for some reason special precautions were taken to prevent workers from stealing grain, and special measures were employed to prevent anybody leaving the premises without a search. On that particular day half a ton of fresh peas disappeared. The premises and all the workers were searched but without result. Nothing could be found, because the workers had eaten the peas.
23. No clothing was issued to workers and many workers stole sacks from which they made garments they needed. Sacks of US origin were in particular demand as they were of better quality than some cotton textiles of Soviet manufacture.
24. A working day was officially eight hours but in practice everybody worked longer as continuous appeals were made to work longer in order to help the war effort. On such occasions wounded soldiers were present at workers' meetings and they told hair-raising stories about German atrocities. There was always a good response to all such appeals as the people did not like the Germans.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

25. Work discipline was very strict [redacted]
26. [redacted]
27. [redacted]

28. The kolkhoz had an 18 HP engine, type "Chervoniy Progress" ("Red Progress" - obviously made in the Ukraine as the word "Chervoniy" means "red" in the Ukrainian language) which was used as a source of power for a threshing machine. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

29. The kolkhoz "Pobyyeda" was made after World War II from neighboring kolkhozes at Pyatigorsk, Igrovka and Svyerdlov. The reason for this was that all three kolkhozes were small and uneconomical.
30. Immediately after the revolution, people in the village of Pyatigorsk formed on their own initiative, a commune (Kommuna) by pooling together all their lands, cattle, horses and agricultural tools. After a year or two they found they were better off individually than in the commune and they reverted to individual farming.

50X1-HUM

31. [redacted]
32. For each "working day" (Trudodeny) earned, the collective farmers received 1.5 kg of grain. But it was never one type of grain and usually wheat, rye and millet in various proportions were handed out in payment for "working days".
33. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

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~~4~~

50X1-HUM

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36. As the tractor drivers were paid according to the area they ploughed, all tractor drivers would plough large plains, leaving unploughed small strips of land which could not be ploughed without a lot of turning round of the tractor.

50X1-HUM

37. The tractors were old, and often broke down which hampered the work.

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